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NEWS
FROM YOUR MUSEUM
THE ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM

Know your Museum better

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A PINK CAVE

Although no pirate plunder will ever be unearthed in its depths, the cave in the Royal Ontario Museum is really fascinating. Professor A.L. Parsons, using pink calcite discovered in a cave at Sterlingbush, N.Y., some years ago, has partially reconstructed that cave, lining the ceiling, walls and floor with beautiful, and sometimes very large, pink crystals. Some of them almost transparent, they vary in color from bright rosy pink to nearly mauve, depending largely on the angle of light. As you look through an opening in the wall, the cave, although actually less than ten feet in depth, appears to be quite endless.

A word about the origin of such a cave. Circulating underground waters may dissolve away the limestone through which they pass, leaving a great hole. If the hole is empty and the lime-bearing waters seep in, they drip from the ceiling to form stalactites and pile up on the floor as stalagmites. If, however, the hole becomes filled with lime-bearing waters which cannot escape, the calcium carbonate in solution has an opportunity of forming into crystals of calcite on the walls, ceiling, and floor of the cave, one crystal sometimes growing to a considerable size. In the cave at the Museum there is one weighing over four hundred pounds.

With great care these crystals can be removed from the original caves and reconstructed elsewhere, so that if you cannot go to the cave, the cave can come to you.

VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF LIFE

E.B.S. Logier, authority on reptiles and amphibians, believes that variety is the spice of life, and accordingly sets himself to the task of arranging temporary exhibits of aquatic creatures in the centrally-located aquarium in the zoological galleries of the Royal Ontario Museum. These exhibits feature many aspects of aquarium life. Native stream fish, communities of tropical fish, Ontario turtles, the mud-puppy, the bowfin or dogfish, an endless variety of aquatic life, stage, for the public, scenes of their domestic life. With the early approach of spring, the long galleries resound with the "jug-o-rum" of the bullfrogs, which sensing the spring season set up a vernal chorus. Feeding-time, the cleaning of the tanks or the transferring of the specimens never fails to attract the attention of Museum visitors. The number of persons, aquarist, child, and casual onlooker, who pause to watch the daily routine of these animals is evidence itself of the interest and variety of these aquarium exhibits.

WOMEN'S HATS

If your husband thinks your new hat is silly you should take him to see the hats shown in the costume room of the Royal Ontario Museum. He will then realize that the craziest hats worn now are quite mild in comparison to some of the millinery of our mothers and grandmothers.

Among those on exhibition are bonnets which were worn on the back of the head in the middle of the nineteenth century and tiny bonnets which were worn perched on the very top of enormous quantities of hair about 1890. A small but very life-like parrot is used on one early twentieth century white lace and green velvet model and there are two huge hats trimmed with white ostrich plumes which were worn about 1910.

Probably the most spectacular hat is a huge leghorn which was the latest fashion in 1912. It was worn tilted back on a pompadour and is covered with a regular flower garden of sweet-peas, clover, butter-cups, and many other varieties of flowers.

The modern hat is at least less cumbersome!

Big Bones from Saskatchewan

A dinosaur shoulder blade nearly six feet long, a two-foot skull of a baby mammal, and numerous sea-shells are among the spoils of two recent expeditions to the Cypress Hills region of southwestern Saskatchewan. These are shown in a special exhibit recently placed in the Royal Ontario Museum.

This region in Saskatchewan is noted for its extensive series of fossil-bearing rock formations, of various ages, each with its own set of fossils. Oldest of the series are the marine shales and sandstones, laid down when the Canadian prairies were beneath the sea, and containing many fossil sea-shells. Above these occur fresh-water deposits containing the bones of giant dinosaurs, as well as pond snails and beautiful leaf impressions. Highest of all are the river sands and gravels with bones of various mammals including the large, rhinoceros-like titanotheres. The Museum expeditions obtained a fine titanothere skull and numerous lower jaws, many of them from young animals. Much fossil collecting remains to be done in this part of Saskatchewan.

BRUCE COUNTY CHILDREN VISIT MUSEUM

The children of Bruce county visited the Museum on April 26. They saw everything from snakes to musical instruments, had two special moving pictures, and fortified themselves for their journey home with hot meat pies. They had a grand time, and the Museum enjoyed entertaining them.